

V. REMARKS

The following rejections were addressed in the Decision on Appeal:

1. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0031658) in view of Satoh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,811,273).
2. Claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki, Satoh and further in view of Weiss (U.S. Patent No. 6,623,006).
3. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki, Satoh and further in view of Niwa (U.S. Patent No. 6,790,140).

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The following technical features 1. and 2. have been added to independent claim 10:

1. The light guiding plate is formed on the back with a light deflection pattern for guiding light emitted from an illumination unit toward a front surface side and the back surface side, wherein end faces corresponding to the inside dimensions of the cutouts are subjected to light scattering process.

This technical feature 1 is sufficiently supported by the description in paragraph [0035] of the specification as originally filed.

2. A reflection film is provided between the light guiding plate and the reel, wherein the reflection film reflects the light emitted from the light guiding plate toward the front surface side.

This technical feature 2 is sufficiently supported by the description in paragraphs[0031] and [0045] of the specification as originally filed.

Due to such technical features 1 and 2, color development of the liquid crystal panel 173 is improved and it is also possible to eliminate light emission unevenness of RGB-LEDs of reel backlight. Further, the light scattering process also illuminates the left reel 3L, the center reel 3C, and the right reel 3R so that the symbols on the left reel 3L, the center reel 3C, and the right reel 3R are represented sharply. Since auxiliary light is not required, the structure of the liquid crystal display device becomes simple accordingly and the cost of the liquid crystal display device can be reduced.

Further, the production of noises by a drive circuit (such including inverter) of auxiliary light is eliminated.

These advantageous effects are supported by the description in paragraph [0037] of the specification.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 10 as amended and discussed above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 3, 8 and 9 depend from claim 10 and includes all of the features of claim 10. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 10 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

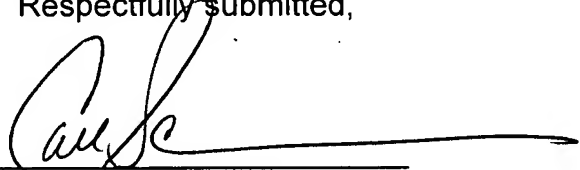
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance; the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

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Respectfully submitted,

By:



Carl Schaukowitch
Reg. No. 29,211
RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751
Customer No. 23353

Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
Request for Continued Examination

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